



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

January 11, 2022

Blake Hawthorne
Clerk of the Court
The Supreme Court of Texas
Supreme Court Building
201 W. 14th St., Room 104
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Amicus Curiae Letter: James F. Miles v. Texas Central Railroad & Infrastructure, Inc. and Integrated Texas Logistics, Inc.; Case No. 20-0393

To the Honorable Justices of the Texas Supreme Court:

As members of Congress representing Texas, we write to express our strong support for the Texas Central High-Speed Rail project and ask that you affirm the Thirteenth Court of Appeals holding that Texas Central is a railroad and an interurban electric railway under Texas law.

The Texas Central High-Speed Rail project will connect Dallas and Houston -- two of the largest, and fastest growing -- metropolitan regions in the nation. Unbelievably, these regions are not currently serviced by direct passenger rail service. Once completed, this high-speed rail system will connect Dallas and Houston in less than 90 minutes and at speeds up to 205 mph. Currently, travel times along Interstate 45 between North Texas and Houston can exceed 5 hours and are expected to exceed 6.5 hours by 2035. Texas High-Speed Rail will provide a new travel option for our constituents and other travelers in this corridor, mitigate highway congestion, and will be a major part of the future of transportation in Texas.

Texas Central has made significant progress in securing the necessary Federal regulatory actions to advance this project. The Federal Railroad Administration has published a rule to establish safety standards and completed the environmental review process for the project. The Surface Transportation Board has asserted jurisdiction over the project. These Federal actions demonstrate the United States government's commitment to advancing this important project and bringing it closer to becoming reality.

In advancing this project, Texas Central has invested millions of dollars in developing the project and has hired some of the leading design and construction firms in the world -- and done so without state or Federal funds. This project is expected to provide a new mobility option between Dallas and Houston, while generating more than \$36 billion in economic impact on the economy of Texas and creating over 17,000 jobs during the construction phase of the project alone.

We urge you to reject efforts to undermine this effort to develop the nation's first true high-speed passenger rail system. This project will be a catalyst for continued economic growth in our region and the great State of Texas. Considering the importance of this to our constituents and the state, we strongly support this project and urge you to affirm the ruling of the Court of Appeals. Failure to do so will undermine this critical project and could also have a significant negative impact on the ability of future efforts to develop new railroads in the State of Texas. This would have a lasting impact on our State's economy.

There are no fees and costs associated with submitting this letter and certify that a copy of this letter has been served upon all parties by electronic filing.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Colin Allred
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress